SSRC China-Africa Working Group Meeting
4-5 June 2015

Social Science Research Council
1 Pierrepont Plaza, Brooklyn
New York
Main Conference Room

China-Africa Knowledge Project Update

Project background

The scale and speed of China's growing engagement in Africa, Africa's engagement with China in terms of human and capital flows, and the growing convergence of China's economic and security interests in Africa mark a moment of unprecedented global change. These global transformations are particularly manifest in China's growing trade, aid, and security engagement with the African region both bilaterally and multilaterally, as it is here that China is testing out its "going out" policy of global investment and its new role as a global leader. In the last decade, Africa has become an important laboratory for Chinese public policy, which suggests that understanding China's engagement in Africa is a key case for and window on understanding China in the world.

This changing global context has challenged researchers to build new intellectual partnerships and cross-regional knowledge networks, and to develop new frameworks, theories, and approaches with which to understand and explain these dynamic social processes and inform public conversations. Within China itself there are ongoing efforts to build the country's own knowledge base and approach to the African region as part of its "going out" and more recent "responsible stakeholder" policy. African universities, on the other hand, have well-established departments for the study of Europe and the West, but relatively little capacity for the study of contemporary China or other regions of Asia.

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) in partnership with the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China (CA/AC) Research Network established the China-Africa Knowledge Project (CAKP) in 2013 with generous funding from the Luce Foundation to strengthen and deepen international research networks that can help us better understand China's new global role and the implications of these global transformations for the craft of social science.

Project description

The China-Africa Knowledge Project at the SSRC is a multiyear program of activities designed to complement current SSRC initiatives on Africa and Asia. The project's three streams of work—a Working Group on China and Africa, the incubation of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network, and a series of dialogues on China, Africa, and the UN—aim to deepen understanding of China's new engagement with Africa and situate

emergent scholarship on China and Africa within broader scholarly and policy discourses about ongoing global transformations. It does this by strengthening and deepening multidisciplinary and cross-regional research networks, and by developing a series of institutional collaborations and web-based resources and activities.

The CAKP has three principal goals. First, over the course of two more years, by studying how China's emergent role in the world is itself being studied and analyzed, it will build more generative connections between scholars across disciplines and regions, while organizing a growing and fragmented body of knowledge and connecting it to important trends in the social sciences relevant for understanding China and Africa's new international relations. The project's online Resource Hub and conferences and seminars have already helped broaden and deepen these networks and have helped shift the focus from pure empirical study of global change to examining the impact of this change on how we do social science.

Second, the Working Group will continue to guide a planning process whose end product would be the design of a substantial intervention or series of interventions in research collaboration and capacity building for which we would seek support from other funders and possibly in partnership with other SSRC programs. For this longer-term goal, the China-Africa relationship continues to be of key interest, but at the same time we will use this additional two-year period to take China-Africa as a model for the wider range of interactions between China/Asia and the other regions in the "global South."

Third, the CAKP aims to successfully spin off the CA/AC Research Network so that it can, either independently or with a permanent institutional partner, continue its important work as one of the key sites of engagement on China-Africa issues.

This project reflects the core mission of the SSRC as articulated by President Ira Katznelson, and especially two central components of that mission: bringing social science knowledge and thinking to bear on important global issues, and catalyzing innovation in social science research through interdisciplinary, comparative, and cross-regional intellectual encounters.

The initial investment by Luce to support the establishment of the CAKP in 2013 came at a critical moment. As the volume of scholarly and public policy work on China and Africa over the last decade reached a critical mass, the moment provided both a window of opportunity and an urgent need to provide the rigorous theoretical groundwork for future research, to mobilize collaborations across scholars and institutions in China, Africa, and the United States and Europe, and to help set priorities for research and teaching. Much of the scholarship remains under-theorized and fragmented, ad hoc and disconnected, with insufficient coordination among individual researchers and research institutes, a condition often exacerbated by tensions between area specialists within institutions over who leads on cross-regional issues.

In some universities, for example, there are parallel and often little coordinated initiatives (courses, seminars, and conferences) in African Studies and Asian Studies programs focused on China and Africa. This is partly institutional turf battles, but also ontological. Africanists see the "field" as the African region and whatever impacts on it; Asia specialists see themselves as studying China (or Asia) "in all of its forms"—be it in Africa, Latin

America, or elsewhere, with Africa merely providing context. There are also different disciplinary points of departure. Recent conferences on China/Asia and Africa reveal a disconnect between political science/international relations macro-framings and some of the more ethnographic research in this space, with researchers often talking across each other.

The CAKP responded to these challenges by convening the SSRC Working Group on China and Africa, hosting the "Making Sense of the China-Africa Relationship" conference at Yale University, launching the CAKP Resource Hub and Twitter handle, uploading a series of revised think pieces from the Yale conference, supporting the activities of the CA/AC Research Network, and planning a series of policy dialogues with various partners on China, Africa, and UN peace operations.

Without a doubt, one of the biggest achievements of the CAKP to date has been the launch of the project's digital microsite in March 2012, the online Resource Hub, designed as a one-stop shop for researchers working on China-Africa issues. Developed by the project staff in consultation with the SSRC's in-house communications team and the CA/AC Research Network, the website was created on a WordPress platform and utilizes a number of features to ensure that it is helpful to students and researchers.

The SSRC has proposed a two-year continuation of the China-Africa Knowledge Project to continue to build connections and coherence across this work. It will do this by leveraging the investment and visibility of the China-Africa Knowledge Project's activities thus far and would aim to achieve the following:

- Continue to strengthen established research networks and widen their reach by enhancing the CAKP's Resource Hub in response to the interests and needs of visitors to the site.
- Continue to guide a planning process for cross-regional research and capacity strengthening interventions through the continued convening of the SSRC Working Group on China and Africa.
- Facilitate further cross-regional and interdisciplinary collaborations through the launch of a digital forum; and the launch of two to three small, pilot virtual research clusters headed by leading scholars on some of the themes identified by the Working Group.
- Further facilitate cross-regional understanding and collaborations through a series of research and policy dialogues on China's engagement in UN peace operations in Africa planned around the 70th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco; and by increasing researchers' engagement with the next FOCAC meetings scheduled to take place in late 2015 in South Africa in order to give

researchers a voice in policy decisions and help deepen the evidence on which policy is based.

- Identify potential innovations for the craft of social science and continue to lead the debate on the significance of China's engagement with Africa through a book project based on some of the contributions of the SSRC-Yale 2013 conference; the online (and possibly special journal) publication of a series of working papers from the virtual research clusters; the publication of a white paper on trends in teaching China-Africa engagement; and the publication of an updated SSRC Mapping Study on China-Africa Knowledge Networks that would also be expanded to reflect some of the Africa-Asia initiatives currently taking place and to better understand the impact of the emergence of China on broader cross-regional scholarship.
- Increase engagement with the media by strengthening ties with the Wits China-Africa Reporting Project and other journalists and filmmakers working on China-Africa issues; continuing to work with the media on China-Africa reporting and analysis; and through a media/communications focus at the next CA/AC conference in Nairobi in 2016.
- Build capacity for cross-regional connections through planning and successfully spinning-off the CA/AC Research Network to a permanent institutional home.

Project activities to date (July 2013 – June 2015)

SSRC Working Group on China and Africa

The early months of the project were focused on the identification of Working Group members drawn from the United States, Europe, China, and Africa, to serve as a cross-regional, interdisciplinary group to help guide the project's planning process.

The first Working Group (WG) meeting was held immediately following the Yale conference on November 19, 2013. WG members observed that the Yale conference was a welcome effort to deepen scholarship on China and Africa. Taking the teaching and learning needs articulated by leading scholars and graduate students at the Yale-SSRC conference as a point of departure, the WG meeting further explored the many themes that fall under the all-inclusive banner of "China-Africa" and discussed how to take this emerging body of empirical work to the next level. There were some useful suggestions to achieve this, such as organizing WG members into thematic research clusters. These could include, for example: fieldwork and methodology; migration; global governance, peace, and security; environment, food, and agriculture; race and gender; trade, aid, and development (including infrastructure, technology, labor, and extractive industries); civil society; education and capacity issues; health; and language. Finally, WG members discussed plans to produce an edited volume based on conference participants' think pieces and contributions.

Conferences and workshops

In November 2011, the SSRC's Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF), together with the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Beijing, convened a research seminar in New York titled *Chinese Perspectives on Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding* to discuss China and the United Nations. The seminar brought together a select group of prominent Chinese scholars studying multilateral

institutions, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding, who had recently been on a field trip to central Africa, with a small number of scholars and researchers from nongovernmental organizations and think tanks in New York.

The SSRC, in partnership with the Beijing Foreign Service University, the American Friends Service Committee China Office, and the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) also held a two-day conference in Beijing from May 13 to 15, 2013, titled *Towards Coordinated Responses to Conflict: Perspectives on United Nations Peacemaking, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding*. The conference brought together roughly 40 scholars and practitioners to discuss UN peace and security issues in Africa. Participants included both academic and policy experts working within and around UN headquarters, as well as civil society representatives from conflict-afflicted situations where the UN works actively on conflict issues.

The keystone event of the first year of the CAKP was a conference held at Yale University on November 18 and 19, 2013, titled *Making Sense of the China-Africa Relationship: Theoretical Approaches and the Politics of Knowledge*. Organized by a small conference planning committee composed of individuals from SSRC, the CA/AC Research Network, Yale University, and Columbia University, the two-day conference had a total of fifty-five participants from Africa, China, Europe, and the United States.

The conference explored the theoretical underpinnings of this emerging work and focused on setting research agendas under the above themes. A key outcome was that the China-Africa relationship, the product and driver of an evolving world system, offers a promising new set of analytical tools with which we can understand other unexplored global connections. The conference also underscored the need to build the capacity of research institutions around the globe to make this more possible.

The CA/AC Network has also continued to be actively engaged in bringing members together face-to-face at workshops and conferences around the globe. Since its incubation within the SSRC, the Network has organized and/or participated in panels at the following conferences: African Studies Association (Baltimore, November 2013, and Indianapolis, November 2014), International Convention of Asia Scholars (Macau, June 2013), American Anthropological Association (Washington, D.C., December 2014), the Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, May 2014), Africa and Asia Entanglements in Past and Present (Kyoto, July 2014) and the Africa's Asian Spaces (AFRASO) – Centre for Chinese Studies "African-Asian Encounters" (Cape Town, March 2015). Finally, the Network also hosted its third Network conference with Jinan University in Guangzhou, China in December 2014. We are currently working towards a publication of the Russia and Jinan conference papers and many of the China-Africa Working Group members and more broadly, members of the Network, continue to actively publish their work in both print and electronic forms in scholarly journals and more accessible e-journals.
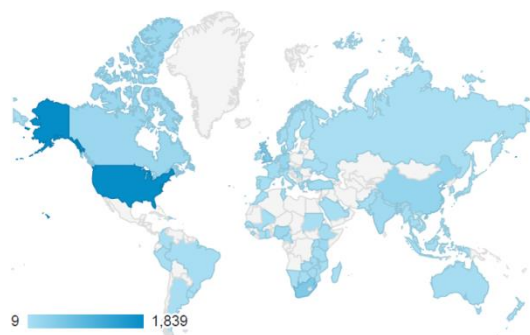
The CAKP [Resource Hub](#)

In the months following the Yale-SSRC conference, the CAKP successfully designed and launched the "China-Africa Knowledge Project Resource Hub" and the project's Twitter handle, @knowchinaafrica, digital tools aimed at anchoring communications and disseminating accomplishments of the project. Developed in consultation with the SSRC's

in-house Communications team, the website was created on a WordPress platform and utilizes a number of features to ensure it is helpful, eye-catching, and user friendly for students and researchers, and serves as a one-stop shop for researchers and practitioners working on the China-Africa relationship.

To date we have showcased 30 scholars on a rolling list of "Featured Researchers"; gathered a list of the most active centers and institutions focused on studying China-Africa connections; kept an updated calendar of upcoming China-Africa-specific conferences and calls for papers; provided a number of relevant academic course outlines and bibliographies; maintained a "What We're Reading" list of other online resources in the China-Africa sphere; and recommended the top China-Africa books and reports from the past two years. More recently, the project published 17 of the revised, edited think pieces from the Yale-SSRC conference on the Resource Hub in order to disseminate project findings and spark new discussion. Additionally, we have just launched an online Researcher Database and interactive map providing contact information for over 400 China-Africa academics and practitioners across the globe. This database is the first of its kind, enabling researchers, students, and media to identify researchers exploring the relationship between China and Africa by name, country, or issue. The site also provides the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China (CA/AC) Research Network with its first web presence by giving it dedicated pages within the Resource Hub, and as such widens the reach of existing cross-regional communities of knowledge. The Hub is conceived and built as a modular site to allow us to add, remove, or spin off parts of it easily.

Launched via SSRC's March 2013 monthly e-newsletter, the Hub has had more than 5,500 unique visitors to date, with the United States, United Kingdom, South Africa, Germany, and China topping the list of most frequent visitors by country (see below map). The project uses the Twitter handle @knowchinaafrica, which appears on the sidebar of the Resource Hub, to publicize new research, upcoming conferences and calls for papers, and additional online China-Africa resources. This serves not only to increase the CAKP's (and the CA/AC Network's) outreach, but has also been responsible for directing more than half of the site's total traffic. Currently, the @knowchinaafrica account has released over 250 academically relevant tweets and has over 425 followers from across the world. Over the next two years the site will offer new features, such as a moderated forum for scholars to debate China-Africa issues in order to further build generative connections between scholars across disciplines and regions. Since it went live two years ago, the hub has been accessed from all regions in the world.

SSRC China-Africa Knowledge Project Resource Hub visitor count
As of May 2015

Hosting of the CA/AC Research Network

The Chinese in Africa/Africans in China (CA/AC) Research Network was established in 2007 and is moderated by Professor Yoon Jung Park. In the past two years, the project has helped grow the Network's electronic listserv and foster its activities by providing financial support as well as institutional and technical support and training for Park and her research assistants. This support was aimed at up-scaling the Network's Google Group and listserv capacities, providing the Network with a web presence, and increasing its outreach through the project's Twitter feed. With the launch of the Resource Hub, the CA/AC Research Network has an online presence for the first time and as a result has seen a dramatic increase in the number of listserv sign ups,[1] which we expect to continue as the site grows and receives more visitors. In addition, the Resource Hub has given the Network a strengthened ability to share information about forthcoming conferences and events, recently released publications, and relevant news stories and commentary with a wider global audience through its "Network in the News" tab.

The CA/AC Research Network has also continued to share information and resources via its Google Group listserv. The listserv continues to host discussions and debates as well as to connect researchers, practitioners (in development, human rights, and international security), journalists and filmmakers, strengthening and deepening engagement across disciplines and across borders. Notably, the numbers of Chinese researchers, based both in China and in the West, have grown tremendously over the past two years.

Beyond China-Africa engagements, the Network has also taken part in a number of interconnected Africa-Asia initiatives, at least one of these also supported by the Luce Foundation. In July 2014, Yoon Jung Park together with other leading scholars of Asian and African studies (including several other members of the Network), participated in "Africa and Asia: Entanglements in Past and Present," a Doshisha GRM International Conference hosted at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. This was the second phase of a larger project supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the Global Resource Management at Doshisha University, the Centre for Chinese Studies (CCS) at Stellenbosch University, and the Centre for Japanese Studies at the Gordon Institute of Business Science at University of Pretoria. Another Africa-Asia initiative, organized by Africa's Asian Options (AFRASO) at Goethe University Frankfurt and CCS at Stellenbosch, just hosted its second conference as part of a series of international conferences on African-Asian encounters that started with the conference "New Cooperations—New Dependencies?", which took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in March 2014. Park is among one of many Network members who took part in this conference held in Cape Town in March 2015. The Network also continues to have a strong relationship with Rhodes University, and Park helped to coordinate their China-Africa course offering for their Honors (fourth-year) students. Other partnership include working with Jinan University to cohost its Third International Conference on Chinese in Africa-Africans in China in December 2014 (during which Professor Zhang Zhenjiang of Jinan University was added to

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[1] The number of Network members has increased from approximately 200 in December 2012, to about 370 in December 2013, to just over 500 in December 2014.

the Network steering committee); and with CARI at SAIS to cohost its first member book launch (for Luke Patey's *The New Kings of Crude*).

Future (proposed) project activities (July 2015 - June 2017)[2]

Resource Hub

The CAKP Resource Hub will continue to be strengthened, building off of its existing collection of scholarly and educational materials. The digital forum will further enhance the Hub's offerings, and all program publications, including those from the digital research clusters and separate white papers, will be available through the site. Part of the development of the Project's Resource Hub into a new phase of work will include also spinning off some of the Hub's functions along with the CA/AC Research Network. Other functions may merge into new or existing SSRC programs, and yet other ones may be archived on the SSRC website, though still remain accessible online.

A Digital Forum on China-Africa

The proposed Digital Forum addresses concerns about increasing access to new research, while deepening scholarly engagement on targeted areas of research and broader theoretical issues. Over the past year, it has become increasingly clear that tightened budgets have resulted in extremely limited conference and travel funding and fewer opportunities for researchers to meet face-to-face. These limitations mean that our digital resources and electronic connections become ever more important. The existing listserv, a Google group, provides opportunities to share information, ask questions, and engage in brief, immediate debates. However, the email platform is limiting.

Responding to the need for a more rapid turnaround of research-based information and insights, a digital forum is an ideal solution and space for our scholars who wish to contribute to discourses and inform decision-making. A digital forum moves beyond the news and the sometimes reactive opinion pieces of outlets such as Pambazuka News, but it is also more than a multi-author blog. Rather, it will allow researchers to put forth ideas, ask questions, and share research insights in a timely fashion that is currently not possible via academic publications.

Building upon the strength of the China-Africa Knowledge Project (CAKP), which was created to respond to the need for increased connections and greater coherence across the growing body of work on China-Africa, and to integrate such work with scholarly discourses and theories about ongoing global transformations, a digital forum on China-Africa is a logical next step. A digital forum will provide a platform for scholarly essays and think pieces contributed by a select group of China-Africa experts. The SSRC has a long track record of developing successful such forums on various themes and has developed a model for them.

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[2] These are largely contingent on the renewal of our Luce Foundation grant, for which we will have confirmation at the WG meeting.

The CAKP digital forum will reside on the CAKP Resource Hub as an additional tab, and will permit an intellectual debate focused around themes being addressed by the CAKP. It will engage scholars in discussions about the theoretical implications and questions of knowledge production that emerge from empirical research on Africa's current engagement with China, and help to amortize the work and research network the project developed in its first year. As the convener of the CA/AC Research Network, and a consultant and partner in the CAKP, Yoon Jung Park will serve as the first guest editor of the Digital Forum and be largely responsible for curating content and ensuring the regular flow of essays; the CAKP project director at the SSRC, Tatiana Carayannis, will serve as editor-in-chief; the SSRC/Network part-time research assistants, currently Gabriel Walker and Mignonne Fowlis, will also serve on the editorial board, which will ensure quality.

The preliminary name of the digital forum is "China and Africa: Debates, Discourses, and Dialogues," and planning is underway for a fall 2015 rollout. The editorial team would curate an online discussion around particular methodological and epistemological issues identified by the Working Group. Essays will be published online. The forum will go live with its first essay only once there are 4–6 essays ready for publication. It will aim to publish a new essay every other week (or 2–3 essays per month). The forum will likely have a finite life, as these forums usually address particular issues and are tied to SSRC programming. Once the CAKP has ended, the forum and its content may be archived on the SSRC website so that the content remains accessible, but the forum, will no longer be active with new content. Like much of the Resource Hub, what content stays at the SSRC and what content can be spun off together with the CA/AC Research Network will be determined in due course. Therefore, it is also possible that some version of the digital forum can be picked up and continued by the Network. We expect the digital forum, in this current form, to run for approximately 18–24 months.

Virtual research clusters

In order to further facilitate cross-regional and interdisciplinary collaborations, the CAKP will launch two to three virtual research clusters headed by leading scholars and composed of a small number of academics. These clusters will focus on specific themes identified by the Working Group, and each one will consolidate its work by publishing at least one white paper on its respective topic. The white paper will be published online by the SSRC and possibly also as a journal article. Given the composition of each cluster and schedules, each virtual cluster would also have the opportunity to publish shorter essays on its own (narrower) topic in the digital forum. These would be published online in a series of three or four contributions followed by a concluding essay or preceded by an introductory essay, written by a discussant/moderator as in a conference "panel." These could be later developed for publication in a special journal edition. The launch for the clusters will also be in summer or fall 2015, after identifying the most promising topics of inquiry and selecting suitable team leaders.

Possible topics include:
- International peacekeeping and peacebuilding
- Labor and migration
- Development aid, trade, and global capital flows
- Infrastructure and extractive industries

- Environment, public health, and food security

Conferences and seminars

Rather than convene another large conference, the CAKP plans to organize a number of roundtables and panels separately or as part of larger conferences, as a way to further help shape research agendas, connect researchers, and disseminate its work. Planned roundtables and panels include:

- A research workshop in Beijing in July 2015 co-organized with the UN Association China, the Quaker UN Office, and the American Friends Service Committee in China on "Emerging Views on Global Peace Practice: New Directions in UN Peace Operations at the Occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter." This will be one of a series of such policy dialogues (see below).
- Two SSRC-hosted institutional roundtables on renewing area/international studies at the inaugural conference of the Asian Studies in Africa Association to be held in Accra in September 2015. Network members have also organized two conference panels, one on race issues in China-Africa migration and one on China-Africa textile manufacturing.
- A research and policy dialogue seminar (the first of a series) on China and UN peace operations in Africa organized by the SSRC and hosted at the Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Center in Accra, in the margins of the Asian Studies in Africa conference in September 2015.
- Panel proposals been submitted by Network members to the African Studies Conference, San Diego, November 2015, to the 5th annual SSRC InterAsia conference, which will be held April 27–30, 2016, in Korea, at Seoul National University Asia Center.
- The next CA/AC conference is tentatively scheduled to take place in Nairobi in the summer of 2016. The organizing committee includes Bob Wekesa (Communications University of China/Wits China-Africa Reporting Project), Professor Jamie Monson (Macalester College/Michigan State University), and Professor Jacobus van Staden (University of the Witwatersrand). The Institute of Development Studies at the University of Nairobi has agreed to serve as the local host organization. The Sino Africa Centre for Excellence Foundation, Fahamu, a pan-African organization focused on social justice, and the Wits China-Africa Reporting Project have all signed on as partners for this conference, which will be co-organized by the SSRC as host of the Network. Planning and a separate fundraising process for this conference have recently begun, with each of the partners agreeing to help raise funds to cover all local costs.

Research-Policy Dialogue Series on China and UN Peace Operations in Africa

Discussions are underway to co-organize 3–4 small seminars on China's engagement with the UN in peace operations in Africa, while providing opportunities for Chinese scholars to conduct fieldwork in UN mission settings in Africa and learn from African counterparts. These seminars would bring together scholars on the UN and global governance from China, Africa, the US, and Europe along with UN practitioners to exchange approaches and perspectives. These will begin around the 70th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter

(2015). Possible partnerships include the SSRC's African Peacebuilding Network, UNA-China, Beijing Foreign Studies University, the American Friends Service Committee (China), the Quaker UN Office, the Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Center in Accra, Ghana, and the South African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA).

The CAKP will co-host the first of these dialogues in Beijing in July 2015 together with UNA-China and others, with the objective to provide a platform for discussion about the multiple UN peace operations reform initiatives underway.

Publications

A book project based partly on the SSRC-Yale conference is underway and being led by Professors Chris Alden and Dan Large. The book will explore how the global transformations brought about by China's increased engagement with Africa have shaped and challenged how we do social science.

We will also aim to publish various white papers, working papers, and reports along similar lines:

- On trends in teaching across these two regions (university courses, fellowships, and programs) and other resources available or being developed on China-Africa (led by Yoon Jung Park). Many of these resources are already on the Hub.
- Updated publication of the 2012 Mapping Study of China-Africa Knowledge Networks on trends in research (as indicated by publications, papers presented at conferences, China-Africa workshops and conferences) and inventory of institutions, centers, and institutes with China-Africa programming. The inventory may be expanded to include institutions throughout Asia as a point of comparison with the recent growth of such institutions in China (led by Carayannis with Gabriel Walker and Mignonne Fowlis).
- Each virtual research cluster will be expected to produce at least one white paper on their topic (led by the cluster leader) and possibly some essays for the digital forum and some journal articles.
- Some of the papers presented at various CAKP conferences and workshops will be developed into web publications or special issues of journals.

Continued support to the CA/AC Network

The SSRC will continue to host the Network and support the planning and successful and sustainability spin-off the CA/AC Research Network to a permanent institutional home. Throughout the incubation period with the SSRC, the Network has continued discussions on the feasibility of registering the Network as an independent entity, as well as discussions with potential institutional partners (including the Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University, School of International Studies/the Academy of Overseas Chinese at Jinan University, the China-Africa Research Initiative at the School for Advanced International Studies, and the China-Africa program at the South African Institute for International Studies). The process will be finalized during a strategic planning workshop of the Network's steering committee in the coming year.

Working Group on China-Africa

The next CAKP Working Group meeting is scheduled for 4–5 June 2015, at the SSRC in New York. Besides convening for general programmatic planning purposes, Working Group members will further discuss project activities, the future of the Network, and how to leverage collaborations with other SSRC programs and partners. Another Working Group meeting will be held in 2016, possibly in the margins of the 2016 CA/AC Network conference in Nairobi or the 2016 SSRC InterAsia conference in Seoul.